

Another relatively recent and important addition to NIST's work has been its Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award program that has helped thousands of organizations to improve their overall performance. The Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence have been used by tens of thousands of organizations and they have been called the "single most influential document in the modern history of American business."

The once-troubled \$7 billion U.S. printed wiring board industry, with its 200,000 jobs, was turned around by a research project co-funded by NIST's Advanced Technology Program. The joint venture led to dramatic efficiencies in research and development, accelerated research, and produced significant technological advances. ATP has played a key role in pushing ahead emerging critical technologies.

NIST's work extends to national security. During military conflicts, NIST was called on to perform numerous tasks, ranging from development of a synthetic substitute for rubber to improving submarine communications to helping design the "Bat," the first fully automated guided missile to be used successfully in combat. Important initial research on the atomic bomb was carried out by NIST, which served as a central control lab for determination of the properties of uranium.

Like industry and our security forces, consumers also count heavily on NIST. For example, withdrawals from automated teller machines are among the billions of dollars worth of electronic data transaction that have been secured for many years with the first publicly available data encryption standard, issued by NIST in 1977. Today, NIST is coordinating the development of an even more powerful successor standard.

Today, patients receive accurate radiation doses in disease diagnosis and treatment today thanks to NIST radiation measurement and standards activities under way since the 1970s. NIST's contributions to the safe medical use of radiation began many years ago. It included efforts to help bring about the 1931 X-ray safety code, which set guidelines for protective devices for patients and operators.

The U.S. death rate from fires declined by 50 percent between the early 1970's and late 1990's, in large part because smoke detectors are now installed in 95 percent of homes. NIST made this improvement possible by developing, with Underwriters Laboratories' participation, the first fire performance standard for smoke detectors and recommendations on number, type and placement of the extinguishers.

It is clear that over its first 100 years, NIST has become part of the fabric of the U.S. economy and society. Our homes, factories, laboratories, hospitals, schools, police and fire departments, and military all have benefitted from NIST's technical handiwork. NIST's importance to this country is

as true today as at any time in the agency's 100 year history.

Now we must look to the future as we celebrate this highly valued institution. Science, technology and society obviously have been transformed over the century and NIST's challenges are changing, too.

What's next for NIST? As science and technology advance, the need for new and more accurate measurements also grows. To meet the exacting needs of electronic manufacturers, for example, NIST researchers have developed methods for counting electrons, one by one. And to open the frontier of nanotechnology, where feature sizes are hundreds and even thousands of times smaller than the diameter of a human hair, they are devising molecular rulers, derived from interatomic spacings in perfectly ordered crystals.

Standards have become crucial for efficient business entry into emerging technologies. Standards have also become a tool of other nations for creating mercantile trade barriers. NIST's role in setting sound global technology standards is becoming critical to U.S. performance in the global economy.

Information Technology security is fundamental to our electronic infrastructure, and NIST is addressing those challenges with special attention to helping other government agencies to improve the security of their systems.

With tough global competition and a growing productivity gap compared with larger manufacturers, small firms will sorely need even greater the access to a nationwide system of technical and business assistance offered by NIST's Manufacturing Extension Partnership.

The Baldrige criteria for organizational improvement are just taking hold in the education and healthcare sectors, and manufacturers and service firms continue to find these evolving criteria to be effective guideposts to help them meet increasing customer demands for excellence.

The new technologies fostered over the past decade by NIST's cost-sharing of high-risk research through the Advanced Technology Program, will be emerging at a quickening pace over the next several years as companies turn these enabling technologies into marketplace offerings.

As NIST moves into its second century, it is clearly committed to working with industry, building the science, technology and business infrastructure needed to ensure future economic prosperity and a higher quality of life for all Americans. We are building a new economy in this century that is based on innovation. NIST is playing an important role in support of the private sector, in building that new economy.

As with our predecessors a century ago, it is the responsibility of this body to support NIST in meeting those challenges. As NIST celebrates its centennial and looks forward to even greater accomplishments, let us in this body reaffirm our commitment to creating

new generations of science, technology, economic growth and security. Congress has played an important role in NIST's first century of success. Now as NIST begins its second century of service to U.S. industry and all Americans, it is Congress' responsibility to keep this treasure a strong resource that will help prepare us for the century ahead.●

HONORING THE FAMILY OF KAYLA ROLLAND

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, there is a family in my home State of Michigan who is to be honored for its courage. The family of Kayla Rolland, the little girl who was shot by her first-grade classmate, has been a source of inspiration to all families who have lost loved ones in gun tragedies.

Despite her own suffering, Kayla's mother, Veronica McQueen, found the strength to speak out to all Americans about her family's tragedy at the Million Mom March. The memory of Kayla and Mrs. McQueen's words of courage helped lead thousands of families from our State to march in Washington for sensible and safe gun laws.

Mrs. McQueen continues to speak out with hope that she can prevent another family from suffering what her family has suffered. Last weekend, as family and friends gathered together to memorialize the one year shooting death of young Kayla, Mrs. McQueen, said:

I pray to God that by being here and sharing with you our sorrow and grief in some way we have made people more aware of gun and school safety and common sense gun laws and to protect our children from guns and, hopefully, save children from what happened to my special little angel, Kayla. This is so important to us.

It has been a very horrible year for all of us. The pain will not go away. I miss her more as time goes on, but Kayla's behind me. Her spirit is driving me on to help save other children from gun violence, and I hope and pray you all will—help save our children.

In a few days, it will be one year since I lost a piece of my heart with Kayla's death. Please—mother, fathers, sisters, brothers, everywhere—please never forget how my baby died.

Let's always put our children first and speak out for their safety.

I regret that I could not be at the memorial service for Kayla, but I want to assure Mrs. McQueen and her family that I stand by her words and her mission. Kayla will always be in my thoughts and prayers and hopefully she will be the spirit that guides us all to put the safety of children first.

U.S. POSTAL INSPECTION SERVICE

● Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the exceptional men and women of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, a premiere Federal law enforcement agency and protector of the U.S. mail. Founded by Benjamin Franklin, the Nation's first postmaster general, it is one of the oldest Federal law enforcement agencies. The Postal

Inspection Service has a long, proud, and successful history of enforcing laws against those who would use the Nation's postal system to defraud, endanger, or otherwise harm the American people.

America has long entrusted her secrets and commerce to the Postal Service. Dedicated postal workers have delivered untold love letters from sweethearts, care packages from home, financial instruments from bankers, and mail-order parcels from merchants. Preserving this trust is the Postal Inspection Service. In days past, Postal Inspectors protected colonial America's post offices from theft and embezzlement and protected the American people from mail fraud swindles following the Civil War. Postal Inspectors solved the last known stagecoach robbery in the United States in 1916 and protected the transfer of the Nation's \$15.5 billion gold reserve from New York to Fort Knox in 1934. Postal Inspectors organized the massive military mail system during World War II and protected the priceless Hope Diamond when it was transferred to the Smithsonian Institution in 1958. In recent years, Postal Inspectors have conducted major investigations from Wall Street insider trading to child pornography to international art fraud. The Postal Inspection Service was one of three Federal law enforcement agencies assigned to the Unabomber task force.

As a testament to their reputation and professionalism, postal inspectors were selected by former Senator John Danforth to serve as the primary investigators looking into the confrontation at Waco, TX. In 1996, Postal Inspectors served on the Federal task force investigating the shootout at Ruby Ridge, ID.

In addition to its expertise as a Federal law enforcement agency, the Postal Inspection Service serves as the security arm of the U.S. Postal Service. When natural disasters or civil disorders occur, postal inspectors and postal police officers are among the first to respond, protecting the U.S. mail, postal workers, and property. Immediately following these emergencies, the Postal Inspection Service works with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to re-establish basic Government mail service, and safeguards delivery of the tons of private relief and aid that is often sent through the U.S. mail.

The Service continues to work to preserve America's confidence in the U.S. mail, even as the Internet assumes a prominent role in our society. Just as it has adapted from stagecoach robberies to Wall Street insider trading schemes, the Postal Inspection Service has now set its sights on Internet fraudsters and cyber-criminals who use the U.S. mail as part of their schemes. It is appropriate that the Service is currently giving significant prevention and investigative attention to the issue of identity theft where thieves steal

other's identifying information—name, address, date of birth, Social Security number and mother's maiden name—to take over the victim's financial accounts.

Today, there are approximately 2,000 postal inspectors stationed throughout the United States responsible for enforcing more than 200 Federal criminal statutes.

As the ranking Democrat on the Subcommittee on International Security, Proliferation, and Federal Services, I have the privilege of providing legislative support and oversight of this distinguished department. I am continually impressed with the quality and breadth of service they provide the American public. In addition to a large cadre of postal inspectors, the Postal Inspection Service includes uniformed postal police officers, forensic specialists, and a host of other professional and technical employees. I thank the men and women of the Postal Inspection Service, and recognize them in this special way for their outstanding dedication and service to the country. ●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Finance.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT ENTITLED "A BLUE PRINT FOR NEW BEGINNINGS: A RESPONSIBLE BUDGET FOR AMERICA'S PRIORITIES"—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 8

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred jointly to the Committees on Appropriations and the Budget.

To the Congress of the United States:

With a great sense of purpose, I present to the Congress my budget. It offers more than a plan for funding the Government for the next year; it offers a new vision for governing the Nation for a new generation.

For too long, politics in Washington has been divided between those who wanted big Government without regard to cost and those who wanted small Government without regard to need. Too often the result has been too few needs met at too high a cost. This budget offers a new approach—a dif-

ferent approach for an era that expects a Federal Government that is both active to promote opportunity and limited to preserve freedom.

Our new approach is compassionate:

It will revitalize our public schools by testing for achievement, rewarding schools that succeed, and giving more flexibility to parents of children in schools that persistently fail.

It will reinvigorate our civil society by putting Government on the side of faith-based and other local initiatives that work—that actually help Americans escape drugs, lives of crime, poverty, and despair.

It will meet our Nation's commitments to seniors. We will strengthen Social Security, modernize Medicare, and provide prescription drugs to low-income seniors.

This new approach is also responsible:

It will retire nearly \$1 trillion in debt over the next four years. This will be the largest debt reduction ever achieved by any nation at any time. It achieves the maximum amount of debt reduction possible without payment of wasteful premiums. It will reduce the indebtedness of the United States, relative to our national income, to the lowest level since early in the 20th Century and to the lowest level of any of the largest industrial economies.

It will provide reasonable spending increases to meet needs while slowing the recent explosive growth that could threaten future prosperity. It moderates the growth of discretionary spending from the recent trend of more than six percent to four percent, while allowing Medicare and Social Security to grow to meet the Nation's commitments to its retirees.

It will deliver tax relief to everyone who pays income taxes, giving the most dramatic reductions to the least affluent taxpayers. It will also give our economy a timely second wind and reduce the tax burden—now at the highest level as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product since World War II.

Finally, this new approach begins to confront great challenges from which Government has too long flinched. Social Security as it now exists will provide future beneficiaries with the equivalent of a dismal two percent real rate of return on their investment, yet the system is headed for insolvency. Our new approach honors our commitment to Social Security by reserving every dollar of the Social Security payroll tax for Social Security, strengthening the system by making further necessary reform feasible.

Medicare as it exists does not adequately care for our seniors in many ways, including the lack of prescription drug coverage. Yet Medicare spending already exceeds Medicare taxes and premiums by \$66 billion this year, and Medicare will spend \$900 billion more than it takes in over the next 10 years. Reform is urgently needed. Our new approach will safeguard Medicare by ensuring that the resources for reform will be available.